

Amendments to the Claims:

1.-36. (canceled)

37. (currently amended) A method for reducing energy costs in an industrially operated facility having a core process specific to a sector of industry, a secondary process supporting the core process that provides energy to the core process, a purchasing unit for purchasing energy, and a discharge unit for discharge of energy, the method comprising:

accessing on an interconnected computer network a predefined two-part standardized procedure for reducing energy costs comprising a first standardized diagnostic method that analyses energy-relevant operational processes using diagnostics that are independent of the sector industry allowing benchmarking based on a large number of companies across a plurality of industry sectors and a second standardized analysis method selected from a plurality of standardized analysis packages each specific to a particular sector of industry, said first standardized diagnostic method and said second standardized analysis method from an electronically stored method handbook and implementing the predefined standardized procedure implemented by:

(a) analyzing and benchmarking a plurality of energy-relevant operational process sequences of the facility using the first standardized diagnostic method by analyzing answers to using predefined energy-relevant questions which are independent of the sector of industry, performed within the facility by a the first standardized diagnostic method implementable on the interconnected computer network having access to a stored knowledgebase, wherein the first standardized diagnostic method uses analyzes answers to the predefined energy-relevant questions from the knowledgebase to identify and generate a report indicating areas where improvement to the sequences can be attained and benchmarking the facility as compared to other facilities, the sequence analysis including consideration of:

energy flows of the core process, secondary process, purchasing unit, and discharge unit of the facility, the energy flow path including:

purchase of the energy from an energy provider,

consumption of the energy within the facility in a core process, the core process being a process that is specific to an industry sector whose main focus contains the sector-specific know-how of the facility,

conversion of the energy in a secondary process, the secondary process being a process that provides the core process with necessary resources for the core process to function, and

discharge of the energy from the facility;

(b) analyzing ~~the facility using the core and secondary processes using a the second~~ standardized analysis method implementable on the interconnected computer network having access to the stored knowledgebase wherein the second standardized analysis method comprises standardized analysis packages individually selectable by the facility from a plurality of standardized analysis packages for the particular sector of industry of the facility for analyzing the core process, the secondary process, the purchasing unit, and the discharge unit, wherein the second standardized analysis method provides recommendations for reducing energy costs by:

measuring and allocating to the core and secondary processes the energy consumption levels of the core and secondary processes;

monitoring energy-relevant data from the core and secondary processes;

storing energy-relevant data from the core and secondary processes;

analyzing the energy-relevant data via:

determining production planning for the core process and secondary process

~~utilizing a first predefined standardized analysis package from the knowledgebase that is independent of the industry sector;~~

~~———determining production planning for the secondary process utilizing a second predefined standardized analysis package from the knowledgebase that is independent of the industry sector;~~

determining energy cost reduction measures for the core and secondary processes based upon the energy-relevant data analysis;

(c) planning energy cost reduction measures based on some or all of the recommendations for reducing energy costs provided by the second standardized analysis method; and

(d) implementing the energy cost reduction measures for the core and secondary processes; and

(e) repeating step (a) of analyzing and benchmarking the plurality of energy-relevant operational process sequences of the facility using the first standardized diagnostic method after a predetermined time interval to carry out another benchmark with other facilities to check an effectiveness of the energy cost reduction measures and continuing with process steps (b) – (e) based on the benchmarking.

38. (currently amended) The method for reducing the energy costs as claimed in claim 37, wherein the first standardized diagnostic method comprises a computer aided interview of middle or upper management.

39. (canceled)

40. (currently amended) The method for reducing the energy costs as claimed in claim ~~39~~ 37, wherein the first standardized diagnostic method and the second standardized analysis methods utilize standardized concepts, standardized calculation models, and standardized process analyses to determine potential for reducing energy costs.

41. (previously presented) The method for reducing the energy costs as claimed in claim 40, wherein the analysis of the computerized information, data processing systems and energy purchasing and discharge is performed using a third predefined standardized analysis package.

42. (previously presented) The method for reducing the energy costs as claimed in claim 41, wherein country specific regulations are considered during the energy-relevant analysis step, the regulations selected from the group consisting of: standards, subsidies, and financial aids.

43. (previously presented) The method for reducing the energy costs as claimed in claim 42, wherein the industrial facility is selected from the group consisting of: paper and pulp production facility, steel works, hospital, shipyard, hotel, chemical plant, cement factory, underground system, railway system, container terminal, and drilling rig.

44. (currently amended) The method for reducing the energy costs as claimed in claim 43, wherein the two-part standardized procedure is predefined within a method handbook.

45. (previously presented) The method for reducing the energy costs as claimed in claim 44, wherein the energy-relevant questions and the energy-relevant data analysis are stored in a knowledge database.

46. (previously presented) The method for reducing the energy costs as claimed in claim 45, wherein the questions and energy-relevant data that are stored in the knowledge database are optimized based upon the experience gained by the facility.

47. (previously presented) The method for reducing the energy costs as claimed in claim 46, wherein the process steps are repeated annually to verify the effectiveness and proper implementation of the measures.

48. (previously presented) The method for reducing the energy costs as claimed in claim 47, wherein the cost reduction determination is performed by an energy service provider.

49. (currently amended) A system for implementing energy cost reductions in an industrially operated facility, comprising:

(a) a method hand book accessible to the facility via an interconnected computer network for predefining a two-part standardized procedure for a holistic consideration of the energy flow through the facility comprising a first standardized diagnostic method that analyses energy-relevant operational processes using diagnostics that are independent of the sector industry allowing benchmarking based on a large number of companies across a plurality of industry sectors and a second standardized analysis method selected from a plurality of standardized analysis packages each specific to a particular sector of industry, the energy flow path including:

purchase of the energy from an energy provider,

consumption of the energy within the facility in a core process, the core process being a process that is specific to an industry sector whose main focus contains the sector-specific know-how of the facility,

conversion of the energy in a secondary process, the secondary process being a process that provides the core process with necessary resources for the core process to function,

discharge of the energy from the facility;

~~considering the core and secondary processes in order to determine potential cost reductions; and~~

(b) a knowledge database accessible to the facility via the network, comprising:

a plurality of predefined energy-relevant questions that are independent of the industry sector for a use by the first standardized diagnostic method for the analysis of the operational process sequence comprising analysis of energy flows of the core process, secondary process, purchasing unit, and discharge unit of the facility; and

first predefined a plurality of standardized analysis packages that are individually selectable by the facility from a plurality of standardized analysis packages for the particular sector of industry of the facility for analyzing the core process, the secondary process, the purchasing unit, and the discharge unit; and

(c) control tools for executing the two-part standardized procedure in order to benchmark the facility with other facilities using the first standardized diagnostic method and to determine potential cost reductions using the second standardized analysis method

~~independent of the industry sector for the standardized analysis method for the analysis of the core process;~~

~~—— second predefined standardized analysis packages that are independent of the industry sector for the standardized analysis method for the analysis of the secondary process;~~

~~—— third predefined standardized analysis packages for a standardized analysis method for the analysis of:~~

~~—— computerized information and data processing systems;~~

~~—— energy purchasing; and~~

~~—— discharge from the facility;~~

~~having experience obtained regionally or globally in connection with the reduction of energy costs.~~

50. (previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 49, wherein the knowledge database is optimized based upon the experience and knowledge gained in the facility.

51. (currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 50, wherein ~~hardware and software~~the control tools for ~~supporting the standardized procedure~~ are provided to the facility locally ~~by an on-site installation~~ or via an interconnected computer network.